71. Tales of spades

By Ron Klinger

North dealer: East-West vulnerable

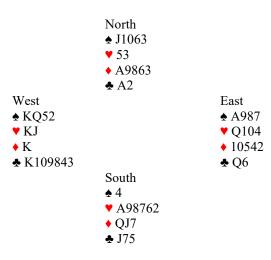
West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

4✓ A98762◆ QJ7◆ J75

The deal arose in the semi-finals of the Open Team Playoffs to select the 2017 team.

North dealer: East-West vulnerable



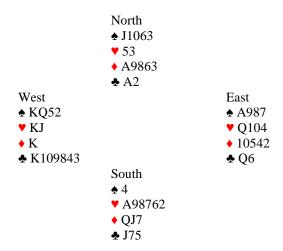
West	North	East	South
Milne	J. O'Shea	Griffiths	Doecke
	1NT ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2 (2)
Dble ⁽³⁾	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble ⁽³⁾	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

- (1) 9-12 points at this vulnerability
- (2) Transfer to hearts
- (3) Takeout of hearts

North led \checkmark 5, ducked to \checkmark J. After \triangle A and \triangle K, West played the \triangle 3. North took \triangle A and continued with the \checkmark 3. South won and returned \triangleleft Q, king, ace. Declarer lost a trump trick, plus the three missing aces, one light, -100.

West	North	East	South
Brown	Hans	Gold	Nunn
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♣	Dble ⁽¹⁾	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
(1) Negative	e double		

West led $\clubsuit10$, ace. After $\clubsuit2$, won by \clubsuitQ , East switched to $\blacktriangledown4$. South took $\blacktriangledown4$ and played $\clubsuit3$: king $-\blacktriangledown5 - \blacktriangledown10$. East switched to the $\clubsuit7$. West won \clubsuitQ and played a club, ruffed by \blacktriangledownQ . South discarded $\spadesuit7$. South lost a spade, three hearts and a club, but had eight tricks for +110, no swing.



On a BBO replay, with humans E-W and robots N-S, it went:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2♥
3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the ΔJ and declarer made ten tricks, +130.

North dealer : East-West vulnerable

North passes and East opens 1♣. What would you do with:

- **♠** AKQ764
- **y** 9
- **♦** KJ9
- **♣** A96

Suppose you have chosen to double. It then goes:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♥	Pass	2♥	?

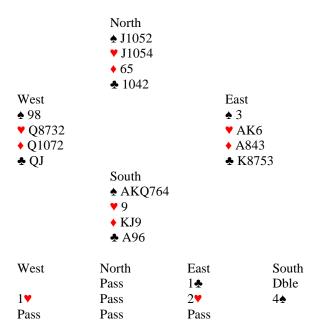
What now?

What if the auction had started:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Dble
3♦	Pass	Pass	?

What now?

The deal comes from a Swedish Teams' Championship:



With a 5-loser hand, that looks like quite an overbid. There is a case for bidding 2 cdot 2 cdot. If partner can provide two winners, which is what you need, partner will bid again. You can justify a jump to 3 cdot 2 cdot. That asks partner bid to bid game with one sure trick. Give partner the A and 2, 3 or 4 spades and A is a fine spot. Replace North's 10 with the A and again A is a good spot. That jump to A is very optimistic.

At the other table, it went:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Dble
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

There is a better case for 4♠ here than in the previous auction. Even so, there is no guarantee of a spade fit with North. A 3♠ bid here by South is a strong action, even without a jump. North can reasonably think that if South can bid 3♠ with no guarantee of support opposite, then support plus a sure winner should be enough for 4♠. With trump support and no tricks, North would / should pass 3♠.

The BBO replay:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♥	Pass	2♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

With five losers and a powerful 6-card suit, the South hand is too strong for a simple $1 \triangleq$ overcall. These hands are generally shown via takeout double and bid your suit later. South might have bid just $2 \triangleq$, but South figured that with the right winner opposite plus a few spades, game would be a decent chance. You could give North three spades, the \mathbf{Q} and a doubleton club and game is feasible. With a slightly better hand, game would be a good chance. That prompted the jump to $3 \triangleq$, a conservative action compared with the jumps to $4 \triangleq$ at the other tables.

North might have passed 3♠ but took a rosy view of the 4-card trump support and the doubleton diamond. Note that 4♠ fails even if you improve South's diamonds to AJ9. In the Swedish event, both Souths were one down when they played a diamond to the king. If you play a diamond to the ◆J, you go two down.

Problems for Tomorrow:

1. East dealer: Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
		3♥	Dble
4♥	Dble	Pass	4♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

What would you lead as West from:

- **♠** 7
- **♥** Q108
- **♦** Q73
- **♣** J96532
- 2. With both vulnerable, West opens 2NT. East bids 3, transfer to hearts. What would you do as South with:
- **★** 753
- **♥** Q
- ♦ AKQ1095
- **♣** 973

Why not phone or email your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?

Homeschooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.